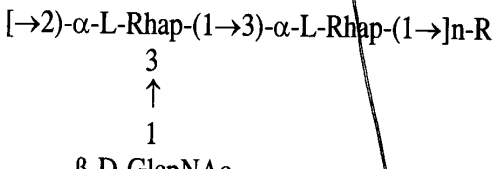
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice all of the pending claims 1-60.

Please add the following additional claims:

-- 61. A method of immunizing a mammal against infection by group A Streptococcal bacteria comprising administering to an individual an immunogenic amount of the polysaccharide of formula (I)



(I)

wherein R is a terminal reducing L-rhamnose or D-GlcpNAc and n is a number from about 3 to about 30, and wherein the polysaccharide is covalently linked to protein.

62. The method of immunizing according to claim 61 wherein the group A polysaccharide has a molecular weight of about 10 Kd.

63. The method of immunizing according to claim 62 wherein the group A polysaccharide is administered in a dosage amount of about 0.10 μg to about 10 μg per kilogram of body weight.

64. The method of immunizing according to claim 61 wherein the protein is linked to the polysaccharide through a secondary amine bond.

65. The method of immunizing according to claim 64 wherein the protein is any native or recombinant bacterial protein.

66. The method of immunizing according to claim 65 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of tetanus toxoid, cholera toxin, diphtheria toxoid, and CRM_{197}.

67. The method of immunizing according to claim 66 wherein the protein of the

polysaccharide-protein conjugate is tetanus toxoid.

68. The method of immunizing according to claim 63 wherein the polysaccharide is administered with a carrier selected from the group consisting of saline, Ringer's solution and phosphate buffered saline.

69. The method of immunizing according to claim 68 wherein the polysaccharide is administered with an adjuvant.

70. The method of immunizing according to claim 69 wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide, aluminum phosphate, monophosphoryl lipid A, QS21 and stearyl tyrosine.

71. The method of immunizing according to claim 61 wherein the mammal is human.

72. The method of immunizing according to claim 71 wherein the human is a child.

73. An immune composition for conferring passive immunity against group A Streptococcal bacteria in humans, said immune composition comprising opsonic antibodies which are bactericidal in the presence of complement and phagocytes and wherein said antibodies are a) obtained from a human; b) bind to polysaccharide of group A Streptococcal bacteria of formula (I)

$$[\rightarrow 2)\text{-}\alpha\text{-L-Rhap-}(1\rightarrow 3)\text{-}\alpha\text{-L-Rhap-}(1\rightarrow]_n\text{-R}$$
$$\begin{matrix} 3 \\ \uparrow \\ 1 \end{matrix} \qquad \text{(I)}$$
$$\text{ß-D-GlcpNAc}$$

wherein R is a terminal reducing L-rhamnose or D-GlcpNAc and n is a number from about 3 to about 30; and c) are present in said composition in an immunoprotective amount.

74. The immune composition according to claim 73 wherein the antibodies are present in serum, a gamma globulin fraction or a purified antibody preparation.

75. A method of conferring passive immunity against group A Streptococcal bacteria comprising administering to a human a pharmaceutical composition comprising

opsonic antibodies which are bactericidal in the presence of complement and phagocytes and wherein said opsonic antibodies are a) obtained from a human and b) bind to polysaccharide of group A Streptococcal bacteria of formula (I)

$$[\rightarrow 2)\text{-}\alpha\text{-L-Rhap-}(1\rightarrow 3)\text{-}\alpha\text{-L-Rhap-}(1\rightarrow]_n\text{-R}$$
$$\begin{matrix} 3 \\ \uparrow \\ 1 \end{matrix} \qquad \text{(I)}$$
$$\text{ß-D-GlcpNAc}$$

wherein R is a terminal reducing L-rhamnose or D-GlcpNAc and n is a number from about 3 to about 30; and c) are present in said pharmaceutical composition in an immunoprotective amount.

76. The method according to claim 75 wherein said opsonic antibodies are isolated from sera having a titer greater than about 40,000.

77. The method according to claim 75 wherein said opsonic antibodies are isolated from sera having a titer greater than about 75,000.

78. The method according to claim 75 wherein said opsonic antibodies are isolated from sera having a titer greater than about 100,000.

79. The method according to claim 76 wherein said opsonic antibodies are isolated from sera having a titer greater than about 200,000.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time for the constructive interview.

Support for the new claims is shown below:

Support for claims 61-72 is found in the specification, for example, at page 5, lines 19-35.

Claims 73-79 find support throughout the specification. For example, the specification discloses at least two sources of antibodies demonstrated to be bactericidal in the presence of